

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

BOBBY RICHARDS,

Case No. 2:20-cv-02141-RFB-VCF

Plaintiff

ORDER

v.

WILLIAM HUTCHINGS, *et al.*,

Defendants

This action began with a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by a prisoner incarcerated at the Southern Desert Correctional Center (“SDCC”). On November 23, 2020, this Court issued an order denying the Plaintiff’s application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, without prejudice, because the application was incomplete. (ECF No. 3 at 2). The Court ordered Plaintiff to file a fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full filing fee of \$400 on or before January 22, 2021. (*Id.* at 2-3). The January 22, 2021 deadline has now expired, and Plaintiff has not filed another application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, paid the full \$400 filing fee, or otherwise responded to the Court’s order.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case. Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party’s failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. See Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (affirming dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (affirming dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of

1 complaint); Carey v. King, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (affirming dismissal
 2 for failure to comply with local rule requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of
 3 address); Malone v. U.S. Postal Service, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (affirming
 4 dismissal for failure to comply with court order); Henderson v. Duncan, 779 F.2d 1421,
 5 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (affirming dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with
 6 local rules).

7 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey
 8 a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors:
 9 (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to
 10 manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring
 11 disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.
 12 See Thompson, 782 F.2d at 831; Henderson, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; Malone, 833 F.2d at
 13 130; Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; Ghazali, 46 F.3d at 53.

14 Here, the Court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in expeditiously
 15 resolving this litigation and the Court's interest in managing the docket, weigh in favor of
 16 dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to Defendants, also weighs in favor of
 17 dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay
 18 in filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See Anderson v. Air
 19 West, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor—public policy favoring
 20 disposition of cases on their merits—is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor of
 21 dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure to obey
 22 the court's order will result in dismissal satisfies the “consideration of alternatives”
 23 requirement. Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1262; Malone, 833 F.2d at 132-33; Henderson, 779
 24 F.2d at 1424. The Court's order requiring Plaintiff to file another application to proceed
 25 *in forma pauperis* or pay the full \$400 filing fee on or before January 22, 2021 expressly
 26 stated: “IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if Plaintiff does not file a fully complete
 27 application to proceed *in forma pauperis* with all three documents or pay the full \$400
 28 filing fee for a civil action on or before January 22, 2021, this case will be subject to

1 dismissal without prejudice for Plaintiff to refile the case with the Court, under a new case
2 number, when Plaintiff has all three documents needed to file a complete application to
3 proceed *in forma pauperis* or pays the the full \$400 filing fee." (ECF No. 3 at 3). Thus,
4 Plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal would result from noncompliance with the
5 Court's order to file another application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the full \$400
6 filing fee on or before January 22, 2021.

7 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that this action is dismissed without prejudice
8 based on Plaintiff's failure to file another application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay
9 the full \$400 filing fee in compliance with this Court's order dated November 23, 2020.

10 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court will close the case and enter
11 judgment accordingly. No other documents may be filed in this now-closed case.
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13 DATED: February 8, 2021.

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16 RICHARD F. BOULWARE, II
17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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